



STATE OF LOUISIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MITCHELL R. THERIOT
District 54

Transportation, Highways & Public Works,
Vice Chairman

0274 '99 APR 26 10:28

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Insurance
Judiciary
Joint Committee on
Capital Outlay

April 19, 1999

Dockets Management Branch
FDA
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1601
Rockville, MD 20852

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today to express my strong objection to costly and unnecessary rules which you have been asked to consider by the Center for Science in the Public Interest.

Most people in the oyster industry own small operations with little financial stability and few cash reserves. Forcing these individuals to comply with mandatory treatment will drive many out of the business altogether and greatly reduce their limited profits even further. Simply stated, they cannot absorb the lower consumer demand which will result from treated oysters.

Consumers should have a choice between treated oysters and fresh oysters. The small number of people who may be at risk should heed the ample health warnings available where fresh oysters are sold.

I urge FDA to reject these crippling rules and to allow other appropriate independent state and national bodies such as ISSC to continue to their educational and oversight activities as they have in the past.

I would appreciate any assistance you can provide in this matter.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mitchell R. Theriot".

MITCHELL R. THERIOT

MRT/jmt

98P-0504

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